



GREENVILLE COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

GO -211

GENERAL ORDERS

POLICE SERVICE DOGS (CANINE SERVICES)

PURPOSE:

This policy provides the Greenville County Sheriff's Office with highly trained police service dogs used for criminal apprehension, building searches, area searches, evidence detection, narcotics and explosive detection, tracking missing persons, tracking fleeing persons, crowd control and for promoting favorable public relations.

**AUTHORIZED
USE:**

Police service dogs are authorized for use:

- Searching buildings or areas believed clear of innocent persons for hidden suspects.
- Tracking suspects or missing persons.
- Searching for narcotics and explosives in vehicles, buildings, parcels, or other items.
- Crowd control with canine presence.
- Participating in community education demonstrations of canine's abilities.
- Detecting accelerants and hard/solid state drives(TPPO)

Additionally, police service dogs are authorized to apprehend, prevent the escape of, or to arrest a person who the canine handler has reasonable grounds to believe has committed or is about to commit a serious offense, and one or more of the following exist:

1. Reasonable belief that the person poses an immediate threat of violence or serious harm to the public, any officer, or him/herself.
2. The individual is physically resisting arrest by means of force or attempting to evade arrest by flight and use of a canine appears necessary to prevent injury to the arresting officer.
3. The individual is believed concealed in an area where entry by anyone other than a canine would pose a significant threat to the officer.
4. In situations where conditions or variables not specifically identified in this policy exist, it is the responsibility of the handler to ensure that the circumstances support a reasonable decision to use a canine.

Additionally, on-duty police service dog teams will respond to crimes in progress without specific dispatch to assist patrol units in potentially violent situations.

NOTE - As a general rule, police service dog teams should not be assigned as a primary unit to “report type” calls of non-emergency nature unless so authorized by a Watch Commander during unusual complaint periods. The Canine Unit’s Service Manual shall be utilized in accordance with General Order 211.

**PROHIBITED
CANINE
USAGES:**

The following are situations where the usage of a canine is not justified:

1. To affect the arrest of a highly intoxicated or feeble person who obviously cannot escape or resist deputies and who poses no immediate danger to deputies or the public.
2. To intimidate or frighten a suspect.
3. To search for known juvenile offenders unless there is probable cause to arrest the juvenile for a violent crime under the SC Code of Laws (16-1-60) or the juvenile is an immediate threat to the deputies or the public.
4. Sniffing of people for the odor of illegal drugs.

**CANINE HANDLING
METHODOLOGY:**

The Sheriff’s Office Canine Services Unit utilizes a handler control policy. Through the training of both handlers and canines, the handler maintains control of the canine through the use of verbal, hand and leash commands.

CANINE RECALLS:

Canines will be recalled if a handler loses sight of an off-leash canine or once a suspect has stopped resisting and the suspect is no longer a threat to the public or deputies.

PROCEDURE:

Prior to the use of a canine to search for or apprehend any individual, the handler on scene is to carefully consider all pertinent information reasonably available at the time. The information is to include, but is not limited to the following:

- Individual’s exact or approximate age.
- Nature of the offense.
- Potential danger to deputies attempting to intervene or assist with apprehension.
- Potential danger to the public resulting from the release of a canine.
- Degree of resistance the subject has shown.
- The potential for escape or flight if the canine is not utilized.
- The potential for injury to deputies or the public caused by the suspect if the canine is not utilized.

Note: A canine handler and/or the canine supervisor will have the ultimate authority not to deploy the dog. Once the police service dog team is deployed, tactical use and application of the canine will be at the discretion of the individual handler who will rely on his/her judgment, training, and experience. The handler will evaluate each situation and determine if the use of a canine is technically feasible.

A VERBAL WARNING – Except where it would otherwise increase the risk of injury or escape, prior to any area or building search where a suspect may be located, there will be a standardized verbal canine announcement made. The announcement will consist of:

1. Verbal identification as a deputy sheriff.
2. The presence and imminent release of a police service dog.
3. A demand for surrender
4. Warning that the canine will bite.

A sufficient interval between warnings will be given to allow for a peaceful surrender. Additional warnings should be given throughout building searches, area searches and/or tracking/trailing deployment to insure the warning could be heard. The warning should be given in the language of the community if it is known the subject speaks another language.

CANINE INFLICTED INJURIES:

The following applies to incidents involving a law enforcement canine biting or otherwise inflicting injury on anyone:

1. Obtain medical attention for the injured person.
 - All injuries sustained by any persons which result in laceration, avulsion, or hemorrhage, will be examined and attended by a physician at a medical facility.
2. Photographs will be taken of the injuries/bites on the subject insuring a full-body and face photo, which also shows the wounds.
3. Complete a “Response to Aggression” report.
4. Notify the canine sergeant and on-duty Watch Commander.
 - The canine sergeant will notify the Division Commander whenever a serious canine related incident occurs.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF**CANINE HANDLER:**

The canine handler is responsible for:

- Devoting the necessary time needed to care for, feed, and maintain his Sheriff's Office canine and equipment.
- Keeping the assigned canine in good physical health with regular veterinarian visits, exercise, and grooming to include up-to-date annual vaccinations and heartworm preventative.
- The canine handler understands that he will be compensated for the hours devoted to the care, feeding and maintenance of his/her assigned canine at his/her hourly wage rate. Furthermore, the canine handler understands that this rate will be the basis for computing overtime compensation for these duties.
- The canine handler understands and agrees that fourteen hours of overtime are spent each work period in the care, feeding and maintenance of his/her assigned Sheriff's canine. "Work period" is defined as a fourteen (14) consecutive day period consisting of eighty hours.
- Will obtain specialized training in canine operations through the Greenville County Sheriff's Office: (1) 200 hour course for Single Purpose Canines and (2) 600 hour course for Dual Canines.
- Handler transition course will consist of 200 hours for a trained canine and experienced handler.
- Participating in weekly in-service training of the canine.
- Completing detailed training records on approved forms.
- Obtaining national certifications (NAPWDA, NLECO, NNDDA, NPCA, SCPK9A) with the canine annually.
- Being available for call-outs as needed.
- Kenneling the canine at an approved facility when circumstances such as leave or incapacitating injury exist preventing the handler from caring for the dog.
- A Sheriff's Office canine will not be used for breeding without approval from the Division Commander.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF**GREENVILLE COUNTY:**

The County is responsible for providing:

1. The canine and the following equipment:
 - a. 30 foot tracking lead
 - b. 42 inch leash
 - c. 60 inch leash
 - d. Collar
 - e. Tracking harness
 - f. Hard muzzle

- g. Slicker brush
- h. Dog house
- i. Food and water bowls
- j. Buddy bowl for vehicle
- k. 10 x 10 kennel with concrete pad
- l. Hard bite sleeve with cover (issued once out of training)

- 2. Dog food and necessary supplies.
- 3. Payment of all veterinarian bills and associated canine medicines.
- 4. All canine shampoo and flea sprays.
- 5. On a case-by-case basis, flea and other pest extermination for the interior of the handler's home.
- 6. On a case-by-case basis, carpet and miscellaneous repair and maintenance of household items.
- 7. Provide time to train on a weekly basis and to attend schools for certifications.

**SELECTION OF
CANINE HANDLER:**

Qualifications for canine handler:

- 1. Two years experience in law enforcement.
- 2. Good physical condition.
- 3. Strong verbal and written communication skills.
- 4. A commitment to the canine unit for at least the working life of the dog.
- 5. Must live on property suitable for placement of a canine.
- 6. Above average annual performance evaluations.

Selection process for canine handler:

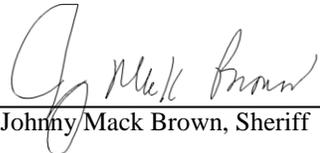
- 1. Participation in an oral interview board seated by the Division Commander, or designee, and K-9 handler and/or sergeant.
- 2. Selection will be made by the affected Division Commander and the Sheriff.

**SECURITY AND
ACCOUNTABILITY OF
CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES
USED FOR CANINE
TRAINING:**

Controlled substances used for canine training are to be stored in a locked safe at a secure Sheriff's Office facility that is listed on the DEA license..

The K-9 handler Commander, K-9 handler Sergeant, K-9 handler Master Deputies and the K-9 Deputies have the combination to the safes in their current assignments.

The K-9 Service Sergeant or K-9 Service Master Deputies are to sign the Narcotics Check-out and Check-in Logs when checking out or checking-in controlled substances. While using checked-out substances, canine handlers are to thoroughly document their use on a K-9 Narcotics Training Form. Controlled substances used for canine training purposes are inventoried monthly. Documented inventory results are to be forwarded to the Office of Professional Standards and to the Accreditation Manager for inclusion in CALEA files.



Johnny Mack Brown, Sheriff